

NSC meeting 4 March 53

Notes on Stalin's illness.

DCI made no formal presentation.

Some of the ^{attached} material was, however,
covered by discussions by the members.

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Security Information

At 5:15 this morning, Moscow time (12:15 our time), Radio Moscow gave out to Europe announcement regarding Stalin's critical condition. Local dissemination started 15 minutes later.

Eight doctors attending propose issue frequent bulletins. All under new Minister of Health and present Chief of Kremlin Medical Dep't, who is MGB man. Stalin last seen by foreigner on 17 February when gave audience Indian Ambassador. Possibility his illness concealed for some time. All announcements so far issued in name of Central Committee Communist Party (party organization) and by Council of Ministers (governing organization, equals cabinet). Malenkov is No. 2 man in party organization; Molotov is No. 2 man in Cabinet set-up.

Consequences of Stalin's elimination:

1. Struggle for power among Molotov, Malenkov factions, with possibility Beria controlling Secret Police might capitalize on such conflict.

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- 2 -

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2. Possible effect on Mao, who took No. 2 position to Stalin, but will he do so to another?
[also - Paris London]
3. Tito's view: - No danger of war as long as Stalin lives; watch out for future. Tito's view generally shared in Europe.
4. London view (radio): - Relax for a while, but then look out!
5. Bonn View: - A du-umvirate; Malenkov internal, Molotov external. No rejoicing.

Did S. leave a testament 1/20
Lenin - [L. vs Stalin]

S in 22 Secty Jan -
Lenin died 24
Struggle in power - Trotsky out 28
Bukharin.

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(Memorandum Stalin) Security Information